

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Editorial

### Important Announcement

The business year of the Brethren Publication Board begins August 1, and closes July 31. It is not only desirable, but very important that all old accounts are settled before that date. On August 1, a new ledger is opened, and it is both a saving of time and expense if old accounts need not be transferred to the new book. In view of this fact:

(1) All ledger accounts should be settled before the month closes, and that is only a short time. Attend to the matter at once, please.

(2) If your Sunday-school is indebted to the House, let us have a remittance at once. We do not like to carry any of these accounts over into the new business year.

(3) Examine the label on your paper, and if you find that your subscription to the EVANGELIST has expired do one of two things, either send us \$1.50 for the renewal of the paper, or second, write us a card stating whether the paper is to be continued or not.

A prompt compliance with the above request will be a greater favor to the Publishing House than anything else you can do, *and this you can do.*

### Working Together for Good

It is easy for us to believe that the agreeable happenings of life, the successes and pleasures that come to us, work for our good, for this persuasion is in line with our desire. But when it comes to the disagreeable things of experience, the sorrows and disappointments, the afflictions and troubles, it is not so easy for us to understand. We must fortify our dull reason with revelation. We must look for the deeper facts that are hidden in the divine wisdom. We must get some lucid idea of the profound plan of providence. In the savannahs of South America there grows a tree called by the natives chaparro, which not only is not injured but actually benefited by prairie fires. The thick bark resists the action of the flames, and the hard seeds, being supplied with a

kind of wings, are scattered broadcast by the strong wind which accompanies a fire. Perhaps nature has furnished us here an illustration of our subject. We are, or we may be, also equipped with a thick bark, call it patience, hope, faith, which enables us to resist or rather to endure, the fires of adversity, while on the other hand those seeds of holiness, love, truth, godliness, or whatever makes up that combination of forces which we call Christian influence, are scattered abroad, and find lodgment wherein to germinate and grow in the service of the kingdom. Like the seeds of the chaparro these seeds of that kingdom also have wings, and the strong winds of adversity bear them far and wide. But altho we know this, we are as yet only children, who shrink from the bitter medicine, deaf to all the arguments of its salutary office. And we are furthermore like children in that we are quite unwilling to travel any long road to the possession of rewards or the consummation of desire. We want our good things now, and we would rather have a very little present good than to wait a long time and suffer much tribulation for a greater good in the indefinite future.

All things work together for good to them that love the Lord. This is true, but the truth lies in the sequel, and we can only realize it by patiently waiting for the sequel. The Divine processes are often slow. God has no reason to be in a hurry, for all the ages and eternities are his. He will occupy millions of years in the building of a star. Must he be hurried in the building of a character and a destiny which will outlive the stars? Is it not enough for us to know that the Infinite Love, the Infinite Wisdom, the Infinite Power, is working out an eternal plan for our good? for a good that is immeasurable? We are for the present to find rest and peace, even in the midst of much tribulation, in this grand fact that God is working, and causing all things, whether in heaven or in the earth, or under the earth, to work together for good. Behold what value he puts upon us, since every thing beside, whether animate or inanimate creation, is but secondary and subsidiary to us, so that even the angels are ministering spirits, sent forth to minister to the heirs of salvation.